

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

*Chief Ronal W. Serpas*

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tribal Emergency Response Commission**

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) Fire Protection Bureau's Emergency Mobilization Division, and the Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD), in conjunction with the State Emergency Response Commission, hosted the Tribal Emergency Response Commission (TERC) hazmat workshop recently in Ocean Shores on the Quinault Tribal Reservation.

The purpose of the workshop is to create an opportunity for WSP, EMD, and the Tribes to work together in support of local HAZMAT initiatives. It also provides an opportunity for all agencies to educate each other on their HAZMAT response capabilities. Presentations were made on how to organize and operate Tribal Emergency Response Commissions from the Pueblo Laguna Tribal representatives, overview of the emergency response to the Cosmopolis Chlorine incident at Weyhauser, federal tribal issues dealing with hazmat and nuclear waste, and several other topics.

"This type of training that involves partnerships from state, federal, and tribal agencies is invaluable when it comes to preparing for different types of hazmat incidents," stated WSP Chief Ronal Serpas.

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